

DECLARATION,

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Letters Patents of the Election
of this present

King of POLAND

JOHN the Third,

Elected on the 22^d of *May* last past,
Anno Dom. 1674.

Containing the Reasons of this Election, the
great Vertues and Merits of the said Se-
rene Elect, His eminent Services in War, e-
specially in his last great Victory against the
Turks and **Tartars**, whereof many Parti-
culars are here related, not published before.

Now faithfully translated from the Latin Copy.
by John Milton.

L O N D O N,

Printed for Brabazon Aylmer, at the Three Pigeons in
Cornhil, 1674.

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DECLARATION

OF
The Patrons of the Election
of this present

King of POLAND

JOHN the Third,

Elected on the 25th of July last past,
A.D. 1674.

Containing the Reasons of this Election, the
Great Virtues and Merits of the said
King John, His private and publick
Virtues, and especially in his last great
Virtues, whereof many other
colours are here related, not published before.

Now faithfully translated from the Latin Copy.

L O N D O N
Printed for Benjamin Aylmer, at the Three Pigeons in
Cornhill, 1674.



Letters Patents of the Election of the most serene King of POLAND.

*In the name of the most holy and Individual Trinity, the
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

WE ANDREW TREZEBICKI, Bishop of Cracovia, Duke of Severia, JOHN GEMBICKI of Wladislau and Pomerania, &c. Bishops to the number of Ten.

STANISLAUS WARSZYCKI, Castellon of Gracovia; ALEXANDER MICHAEL LUBOMIRSKI of Gracovia, &c. Palatines to the number of Twenty Three.

CHRISTOPHERUS GRZYMALTOUSKI of Pof-
nania, ALEXANDER GRATUS de Tarnow of Sandi-
mer: Castellons to the number of Twenty Four.

HILAREUS POLUBINSKI, High Marshal of the
great Dukedom of Lithuania, CHRISTOPHERUS PAC,
High-Chancellor of the great Dukedom of Lithuania, Senators
and Great Officers, to the number of Seventy five.

WE Declare by these our present Letters unto all
and single Persons whom it may concern: Our
Commonwealth being again left Widowed, by the
unseasonable death of that famous MICHAEL late King of
Poland, who having scarce reigned full five years, on the
tenth day of November of the year last past, at Leopoldis, chan-
ged his fading Crown for one Immortal; in the sence of so

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mournful a Funeral and fresh Calamity, yet with an undaunted Courage, mindful of her self in the midst of Dangers, forbore not to seek Remedies, that the World may understand she grows in the midst of her losses; it pleased her to begin her Counsels of preserving her Country, and delivering it from the utmost chances of an Interreign, from the Divine Deity, (as it were by the only motion of whose finger) it is easie that Kingdoms be transferred from Nation to Nation, and Kings from the lowest state to Thrones; And therefore the business was begun according to our Countrey-Laws and Ancestors Institutions. After the Convocation of all the States of the Kingdom ended, in the month of *February* at *Warsaw*, by the common consent of all those States on the day decreed for the Election the 20th of *April*; At the report of this famous Act, as though a Trumpet had been sounded, and a Trophy of Vertue erected, the wishes and desires of Forreign Princes came forth of their own accord into the Field of the *Polonian* Liberty, in a famous strife of Merits and good-will towards the Commonwealth, every one bringing their Ornaments, advantages and Gifts to the Commonwealth: But the Commonwealth becoming more diligent by the prodigal ambition used in the last Interreign, and Factions, and disagreeings of minds, nor careless of the future, considered with her self whether firm or doubtful things were promised, and whether she should seem from the present state to transfer both the old and new honours of *Poland* into the possession of strangers, or the military glory, and their late unheard of Victory over the *Turks*, and blood spilt in the war, upon the purple of some unwarlike Prince; as if any one could so soon put on the love of the Country, and that *Poland* was not so much an enemy to her own Nation and Fame, as to favour strangers more than her own; and valour being found in her, should suffer a Guest of new Power to wax proud in her; therefore she thenceforth turned her thoughts

thoughts upon some one in her own Nation, and at length abolished (as she began in the former Election) that reproach cast upon her, under pretence of a secret Maxime, *That none can be elected King of Poland but such as are born out of Poland*; neither did she seek long among her Citizens whom she should prefer above the rest (for this was no uncertain or suspended Election, there was no place for delay;) for although in the equality of our Nobles many might be elected, yet the vertue of a Hero appeared above his equals, therefore the eyes and minds of all men were willingly and by a certain divine instinct turned upon the High Marshal of the Kingdom, Captain of the Army *John Sobieski*. The admirable vertue of the Man, the High Power of Marshal in the Court, with his supreme command in Arms, Senatorial Honour, with his civil Modesty, the extraordinary Splendor of his Birth and Fortune, with open Courtesie, Piety towards God, love to his Fellow-Citizens in words and deeds; Constancy, Faithfulness, and Clemency towards his very enemies, and what noble things soever can be said of a Hero, did lay such Golden Chains on the Minds and Tongues of all, that the Senate and People of *Poland* and of the great Dukedome of *Lithuania*; with Suffrages and agreeing Voices named and chose him their KING; not with his seeking nor precipitate counsel, but with mature Deliberations continued and extended till the third day.

Certainly it conduced much for the honour of the most serene Elect, the Confirmation of a free Election, and the eternal praise of the People electing, that the great business of an Age was not transacted in one day, or in the Shadow of the night, or by one casual heat: for it was not right that a Hero of the Age, should in a moment of time (and as it were by the cast of a Die) be made a King, when as Antiquity by an ancient Proverb has delivered, that *Hercules was not begot*

in one night ; and it hath taught that Election should shine openly under a clear Sky, in the open Light.

The most serene Elect took it modestly that his Nomination should be deferred till the third day, plainly shewing to endeavour, lest his sudden facility of assent being suspected, might detract from their Judgment, and the World might be enforced to believe by a more certain Argument, that he that was so chosen was elected without his own Ambition, or the envy of corrupted Liberty: or was it by the appointed Counsel of God that this debate continued three whole days, from *Saturday* till *Munday*, as if the *Cotimian* Victory (begun on the *Saturday*, and at length on the third day after accomplished, after the taking of the *Cotimian* Castle) had been a lucky preface of his Royal Reward ; or, as if with an auspicious *Omen*, the third day of Election had alluded to the Regal name of *JOHN* the Third.

The famous Glory of War paved his way to the Crown, and confirmed the favour of Suffrages to his most serene Elect. He the first of all the *Polonians* shewed that the *Seythian* swiftness (troublesome heretofore to all the Monarchies of the World) might be repressed by a standing Fight, and the terrible main Battalion of the *Turk*, might be broken and routed at one stroke. That we may pass by in silence the ancient Rudiments of Warfare which he stoutly and gloriously managed under the Conduct and Authority of another, against the *Swedes*, *Muscovites*, *Borussians*, *Transylvanians* and *Cossacks* ; though about sixty Cities taken by him from the *Cossacks* be less noised in the mouth of fame ; yet these often and prosperous Battels, were a *Prelude* to greatest Victories in the memory of man. Miriads of *Tartars* had overrun within this six years with their plundering Troops the coast of *Podolia*, when a small force and some shattered Legions were not sufficient against the hostile assault, yet our General knowing

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not to yeeld, shut himself up (by a new stratagem of War) in *Podhajecy*, a strait Castle, and fortified in haste, whereby he might exclude the cruel destruction which was hastening into the bowels of the Kingdom, by which means the Barbarian deluded and routed, took Conditions of Peace; as if he had made his inroad for this only purpose, that he might bring to the most serene Elect, matter of Glory, Victory.

For these Four last years the famous Victories of *Sobietzki* have Signalized every year of his Warlike Command on the *Cossacks*, and *Tartarians*, both joyned together, the most strong Province of *Braclavia*, as far as it lyes between *Hyparnis* and *Tyrall*, with their Cities and Warlike people, were won from the *Cossack* enemy.

And those things are beyond belief which two years ago the most serene Elect, after the taking of *Gamenick*, (being undaunted by the Seige of *Laopolis*,) performed to a Miracle by the hardnes and fortitude of the *Polonian* Army, scarce consisting of three thousand men, in the continual course of five days and nights, sustaining life without any food, except wild herbs; setting upon the *Tartarians*, he made famous the names of *Narulum*, *Niemicrowia*, *Konarnum*, *Kalussia*, obscure Towns before, by a great overthrow of the Barbarians. He slew three Sultans of the *Grim-Tartars*, descended of the royal *Gietian* family, and so trampled on that great force of the *Scythians*, that in these latter years they could not regain their Courage or recollect the Forces. But the felicity of this last Autumn exceeded all his Victories; when as the fortifications at *Chocimum*, famous of old, were possessed and fortified by above forty thousand Turks, in which three and forty years ago the *Polonians* had sustained and repressed the Forces of the *Ottoman* Family, drawn together out of *Asia*, *Africa*, and *Europe*, fell to the ground within a few hours; by the only (under God) Imperatorious Valour and Prudence,

of *Sobieski* ; for he counted it his chief part to go about the Watches, order the Stations, and personally to inspect the preparations of Warlike Ordinance, to encourage the Soldiers with voice, hands, and countenance, wearied with hunger, badness of weather, and three days standing in arms; and he (which is most to be admired) on Foot at the head of the foot-forces made thorough and forced his way to the Battery, hazarding his life devoted to God and his Countrey ; and thereupon made a cruel slaughter within the Camp and Fortifications of the Enemy ; while the desperation of the *Turks* whetted their valour, and he performed the part of a most provident and valiant Captain ; at which time three *Bashaw's* were slain, the fourth scarce passed with difficulty the swift river of *Tyras* ; eight thousand *Janizaries*, twenty thousand chosen *Spachies*, besides the more Common Souldiers, were cut off; the whole Camp with all their Ammunition, and great Ordinance : besides the *Assyrian* and *Phrygian* wealth of luxurious *Asia*, were taken and pillaged, the famous Castle of *Gotimia*, and the Bridg over *Tyras*, strong Fortresses, equal to Castles on each side the River, were additions to the Victory. Why therefore should not such renown'd Heroick Valour be crowned with the legal reward of a Diadem ? All *Christendom* have gone before us in example; which being arrived to the recovery of *Jerusalem* under the conduct of *Godfrey of Bullion*, on their own accord gave him that Kingdom, for that he first scaled the walls of that City. Our most serene Elect is not inferior, for he first also Ascended two main Fortresses of the Enemy.

The moment of time adorns this Victory unheard-of in many ages, the most serene King *Michael* dying the day before, as it were signifying thereby that he gave way to so great valour, as if it were by his command and favour, that this Conqueror might so much the more gloriously succeed from

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from the Helmet to the Crown, from the Commanders Staff to the Scepter, from his lying in the Field to the Regal Throne.

The Commonwealth recalled the grateful, and never to be forgotten memory of his Renowned Father, the most Illustrious and Excellent *James Sobietzki*, Castellion of *Cracovia*, a Man to be written of with sedulous care, who by his Golden Eloquence in the publick Counsels, and by his Hand in the Scene of War, had so often amplified the State of the Commonwealth, and defended it with the Arms of his Family. Neither can we believe it happened without Divine Providence, that in the same place wherein forty years ago his Renowned Father Embassador of the *Polonian* Commonwealth, had made Peace and Covenants with *Cimanus* the Turkish General, his great Son should Revenge with his Sword the Peace broke, (Heaven it self upbraiding the perfidious Enemy). The rest of his Grandfires and Great-Grandfires, and innumerable Names of Famous Senators and great Officers have as it were brought forth light to the serene Elect by the emulous Greatness and Glory of his Mothers descent, especially *Stanislaus Zelkievius*, High Chancellor of the Kingdom, and General of the Army, at whose Grave in the Neighbouring fields, in which by the *Turkish* rage in the year 1620 he died, his victorious Nephew took full revenge by so remarkable an overthrow of the Enemy: The immortal valour and fatal fall of his most noble Uncle *Stanislaus Danilovitus* in the year 1635, Palatine of *Russia*, doubled the Glory of his Ancestors; whom desirous of honour and not induring that sluggish Peace wherein *Poland* then slept secure, valour and youthful heat accited at his own expence and private forces, into the Taurick fields; that by his footing and the ancient Warlike *Polonian* discipline, he might lead and point the way to these merits of *Sobietzki*, and being slain by *Canti-*

~~mis~~ the Tartarian Cham, in revenge of his Son by him slain, he might by his Noble blood give lustre to this Regal Purple; neither hath the people of *Poland* forgot the most illustrious *Marcus Sobietzki* elder Brother of our most serene Elect, who when the Polonian Army at *Batto* was routed by the Barbarians, although occasion was offer'd him of escape, yet chose rather to die in the overthrow of such valiant men, a Sacrifice for his Countrey, than to buy his life with a dishonourable retreat; perhaps the divine Judgment so disposing, whose order is that persons pass away and fail, and causes and events happen again the same; that by the repeated fate of the *Hunias*, the elder Brother of great hopes removed by a lamented slaughter, might leave to his younger Brother surviving the readier passage to the Throne. That therefore which we pray may be happy, Auspicious and fortunate to our Orthodox Commonwealth, and to all Christendome, with free and unanimous Votes, none opposing, all consenting and applauding, by the right of our free Election, notwithstanding the Absence of those which have been called and not Appeared, We being led by no private respect, but having only before our eyes the Glory of God, the increase of the ancient Catholick Church, the safety of the Commonwealth, and the dignity of the *Polish* Nation and Name, have thought fit to elect, create, and name, *JOHN* in *Zolkiew* and *Zloczew* *Sobietzki*, Supreme Marshal General of the Kingdom General of the Armies, Governour of *Neva*, *Bara*, *Strya*, *Loporovient*, and *Kalushien*, most eminently adorned with so high endowments, merits and splendor, to be KING of *Poland*, Grand-Duke of *Lituania*, *Rassia*, *Prussia*, *Mazovia*, *Samogitia*, *Kyovia*, *Volhinnia*, *Padlachie*, *Podolia*, *Livonia*, *Smolensko*, *Severia*, and *Czerniechoyia*, as we have Elected Created Declared and Named Him, I the afore said Bishop of *Cracovia* (the Archiepiscopal See being vacant) exercising the Office and Authority of Primate and
by

by consent of all the States thrice demanded, opposed by none, by all and every one approved, conclude the Election: Promising faithfully that we will always perform to the same most serene and potent Elect Prince, Lord *John the third*, our King, the same Faith, Subjection, Obedience and Loyalty according to our Rights and Liberties, as we have performed to his blessed Ancestor, as also that we will crown the same most serene Elect in the next Assembly at *Cracovia*, to that end ordained, as our true King and Lord, with the Regal Diadem, with which the Kings of *Poland* were wont to be crown'd, and after the manner which the *Roman* Catholick Church before time hath observed in Anointing and Inaugurating Kings, We will anoint and inaugurate him; Yet so as he shall hold fast and observe first of all the Rights, Immunities both Ecclesiastical and Secular, granted and given to us by his Ancestor of Blessed memory; as also these Law's which we our Selves, in the time of this present and former Inter-reign, according to the Right of our Liberty, and better preservation of the Commonwealth have established. And if moreover the most Serene Elect will bind himself by an Oath, to perform the conditions concluded with those persons sent by his Majesty, before the exhibition of this present Decree of Election, and will provide in best manner for the performance of them by his authentick Letters; which Decree of Election we by Divine aid, desirous to put in execution, do send by common consent, to deliver it into the hands of the most Serene Elect, the most illustrious and reverend Lord Bishop of *Cracovia*, together with some Senators and chief Officers, and the illustrious and magnificent *benedictus Sapielha*, Treasurer of the Court of the Great Dukedom of *Litwania*, Marshal of the *Equestrian* Order; committing to them the same Decree of intimating an Oath, upon the afore said premises, and receiving his Subscription; and at length to give and deliver the

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the same Decree into the hands of the said Elect, and to act and perform all other things which this affair requires, in assurance whereof the Seals of the Lords Senators, and those of the *Equestrian* Order deputed to sign, are here affixed.

Given by the hands of the most illustrious and reverend Father in Christ, the Lord *Andrew Olszonski*, Bishop of *Culma* and *Pomifania*, High Chancellor of the Kingdom, in the general ordinary Assembly of the Kingdom, and great Dukedom of *Lituania*, for the Election of the new King. *Warsaw* the 22th day of May, in the year of our Lord 1674.

In the presence of *Franciscus Praszmonski*, provost of *Guesna*, Abbot of *Sieciethovia*, chief Secretary of the Kingdom; *Joannes Malachowski*, Abbot of *Mogila*, Referendary of the Kingdom, &c. with other great Officers of the Kingdom and Clergy, to the number of fourescore and two. And the rest, very many great Officers, Captains, Secretaries, Courtiers, and Inhabitants of the Kingdom, and great Dukedom of *Lituania*, gathered together at *Warsaw*, to the present Assembly of the Election of the Kingdom and great Dukedom of *Lituania*.

Assistants at the solemn Oath taken of his sacred Majesty on the 5th day of the Month of *June*, in the Palace at *Warsaw*, after the Letters Patents delivered upon the Covenants, and Agreements, or Capitulations, the most Reverend and Excellent Lord *Francisco Bonvisi*, Archbishop of *Theffalonica*, Apostolick Nuntio; Count *Christophorus a scffgotfch*, *Cacareus Tuffanus de Forbin*, de *Fafon* Bishop of *Marseilles* in *France*, *Joannes* free-barron *Hoverbeck*, from the Marquess of *Brandenburg*, Embassadors, and other Envoyes and Ministers of State.

FINIS.

